**Appendix 1**

**SMA Code of Ethics and Conduct**

Members engaged in the accepted practice of Sports Massage, having satisfied the

Board of the Sports Massage Association of their competence in sports massage, shall

adhere to the following Code of Conduct and Ethics and comply with the Sports

Massage Association Code of Practice.

Members shall :

a) Act honourably towards their clients and fellow practitioners at all times. They

must uphold and maintain the high standards of the profession. They must seek

good relationships and co-operate with other health care professionals.

b) Maintain the high standard of professional conduct appropriate to membership of

the Sports Massage Association (SMA) in which the interest and welfare of the client are deemed to be paramount.

c) Respect the client/practitioner relationship, the confidentiality of the client

endeavouring to foster and maintain trust at all times.

d) Be sensitive to client in regard to modesty and special needs e.g. language

difficulties, disability or if they wish a companion to be present.

e) Respect the views and beliefs of their clients in regard to gender, ethnic origins,

culture, sexuality, lifestyle, age and social status.

f) Maintain good communication at all times thus ensuring the client understands and has consented to all procedures. Where a client is unable to consent, then consent must be obtained from someone who can consent, on the client’s behalf.

g) Observe the highest degree of integrity and responsibility in regard to the practice

of Sports Massage, working within their professional competence.

h) To respect totally the confidentiality of the relationship of practitioner to patient.

i) Respect the client’s autonomy and allow them a choice and never take advantage

of the power that exists in a practitioner/client relationship. This would constitute

abuse.

j) Be prepared and competent to administer emergency procedures as may be

required by the client, and to maintain such procedures until relieved.

k) Seek appropriate advice in any situation in which the practitioner may lack the

necessary competence or experience.

l) Maintain careful records of all clients in regard to a full medical history and

presenting complaint, assessment and procedures performed, and then keeping up to date medical records, clinical findings to the level of competence gained,

information and advice given and any comments made plus details of any

suggested referral. Records are the property of the client. To safeguard themselves and their clients, practitioners should complete records for each client and if in doubt as to the client’s health or the suitability of the treatment, the client should be advised to consult a doctor. This advice should be recorded.

m) When records are kept on a computer, registration with the database authorities is required.

n) Provide information (if requested) to other health & sport professionals with client’s written consent only. This may include trainers, coaches and managers involved.

o) Members must refrain from criticising fellow practitioners and must not attempt to

entice clients away from another practitioners providing sports massage.

p) Report all notifiable disease states according to applicable laws.

q) Ensure by means of continuous update of information and training, a level of

competence consistent with the highest standards of the profession.

r) Abstain from any claim or statement misrepresenting the benefits of sports

massage.

s) Deal with complaints and criticisms efficiently.

t) Maintain a Continuing Professional Development (CPD) portfolio which must contain 40 hours sports massage training per annum or 80 hours over two years.

u) Any Member of the SMA undertaking research must adhere to the code of ethics and standards laid down by the relevant Ethics Committee.

v) Insurance

Members must hold the recommended SMA professional indemnity and public liability insurance cover or an equivalent.

w) Personal:

A practitioner should at all times maintain the modest and correct demeanour

expected of the professional person, both in a public and private capacity. Abuse

of alcohol, drugs, or good order is deemed to be a serious offence against this

code.

x) Records:

An accurate record of patient details and treatments is required. These confidential records must be kept in a secure place, properly safeguarded and not accessible to third parties. Client notes should be kept for at least seven years and, in the case of children, up to a minimum of 21 years of age.

y) Referrals:

Practitioners should observe the recognised form of client referral.

z) Conduct

A practitioner of sports massage may not:

i) Address or refer to an assistant as ‘Nurse’ unless the person referred to holds

a nursing qualification in the country in which the practitioner is operating a

clinic.

ii) Call himself/herself ‘Doctor’ unless he/she holds a recognised medical

qualification or PhD in the country in which the Member is practicing.

iii) Call himself/herself ‘Physiotherapist’ unless he/she is a member of the

Chartered Society of Physiotherapy.

iv) Call himself/herself ‘physical therapist’ unless he/she holds a qualification

recognised by the SMA to allow the Member to do so.

v) Undertake any physical examination or treatment of a child under sixteen

years except in the presence of the parent or an authorised person, or without

parental consent.

vi) Undertake to attend women in childbirth or treat them 10 days thereafter

without permission from the healthcare professional unless they hold an

appropriate qualification in midwifery.

vii) Undertake to treat clients who are mentally unstable addicted to drugs or

alcohol, severely depressed, suicidal, or hallucinating unless they have the

necessary competence.

viii)Make any written or unwritten claims in regard to the ‘curative’ benefits of

sports massage.

ix) Apply sports massage to a person who is receiving medical treatment for the

same condition without the respective practitioner’s consent.

x) Treat animals without express permission from a veterinary surgeon.

aa) Premises:

i) Treatment areas must be hygienic and equipped to clinical standards and must

comply with current health and safety regulations.

ii) Staff facilities and public areas (waiting rooms, hallways, stairs, toilet facilities

etc.) must comply with current health and safety regulations.

bb) Security:

Practitioners must ensure that the client’s confidential records are properly

safeguarded and not accessible to third parties. Client’s belongings should also be

kept in a safe place.

cc) Advertising:

Advertising and professional leaflets must never make exaggerated claims for

cures. Sports Massage practitioners shall be free to advertise their services and practices as they see fit, subject to any advertisements:

i) Being legal, decent, honest and truthful and in accordance with the British

Code of Advertising Practice or appropriate overseas code.

ii) Not being of a character that could reasonably be regarded as likely to bring

the profession into disrepute.

iii) Not being such as to abuse the trust of existing or potential clients or exploit

their lack of knowledge.

dd) Stationery and Name Plates

i) Professional letterheads should be of good quality and print. Name plates on

buildings and windows should be of modest size.

ii) A full member may use the logo of the Sports Massage Association on business

stationery only but otherwise at the discretion of the Board of Directors.

ee) Discipline

The Board of the Sports Massage Association may, on investigation, de-register

any student or sports massage practitioner contravening the spirit or letter of the

Association’s Code of Ethics and/or Code of Practice or on the grounds of any other act which they may consider to reflect adversely on the good name and reputation of the Association.

The **Complaint Investigation Panel** will investigate any allegations against a

member of the Association, (or Full Member of the SMA Council), of any conduct

that falls short of the standard required.

The **Professional Conduct Panel** will consider allegations of professional

misconduct, referred to it by the Complaint Investigation Panel.

The **Professional Conduct Panel** will also investigate allegations of serious

impairment due to ill health of a Registered Sports Massage practitioner referred to it by the **Complaint Investigation Panel**.

ff) Complaints Procedure

Complaints should be put in writing in the first instance to the Chair of the

Complaint Investigation Panel who will acknowledge receipt within 10 working

days.

gg) Publications

Nothing may be published in the name of the Sports Massage Association without

the prior agreement of the Board, or sub-committee or Member acting with the full authority of the Board.

hh) Appeals may be requested with the Chairperson of the Board of Directors of the

Sports Massage Association.

• The Children Act and the guidance regulations insists that young children are involved in the consent process if possible. The Children Act gives clear guidance to professionals when abuse of children is discovered.

• When evidence of abuse is acquired (physical, sexual or psychological), urgent

discussions with a senior colleague with a relevant referral to an appropriate

professional such as a doctor, or health visitor or agency such as Social Services are essential. Handling and contact must be carefully explained and clients adequately prepared.